

What is claimed is:

9. A method of operating a frequency divider that performs frequency division of an applied signal by a factor N to produce an output signal, the frequency divider including a multiple-modulus prescaler controlled by a modulus control signal, the method comprising:

causing the modulus control signal to transition a larger number of times than required during one period of the output signal to obtain division by N ;

whereby noise energy produced by transitions of the modulus control signal is moved away from a frequency band of the output signal.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

deriving a reduced-frequency signal; and

toggling the modulus control signal in accordance with transitions of the reduced frequency signal.

11. A frequency divider that performs frequency division of an applied signal by a factor N to produce an output signal, comprising:

a multiple-modulus prescaler controlled by a modulus control signal;

a counter circuit coupled to the multiple-modulus prescaler and used to produce the modulus control signal, the counter circuits including control means for causing the modulus control signal to transition a larger number of times than required during one period of the output signal to obtain division by N ;

whereby noise energy produced by transitions of the modulus control signal is moved away from a frequency band of the output signal.

12. The power modulator of claim 11, wherein the multiple-modulus prescaler derives a reduced-frequency signal, said control means toggling the modulus control signal in accordance with transitions of the reduced frequency signal.